



Connecting You to Community Services

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## **ELDERCARE LOCATOR AND EPA OUTLINE WAYS FOR OLDER ADULTS TO DEAL WITH HIGH ENERGY COSTS THIS WINTER**

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Holiday Campaign Informs Older Adults and Their Families  
About Actions to Take for Energy Assistance and Home Safety

**Washington, D.C.** -- The Eldercare Locator, a nationwide public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging, today launched a campaign with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to educate older adults about the community resources available to help them stay warm economically and safely this winter.

Home energy bills, expected to rise almost 50 percent this winter, will be especially challenging for older Americans. Many older adults with low fixed incomes are already stretched with daily living expenses and health care costs. "While some older Americans will be overwhelmed with higher heating bills, the good news is that there are things they can do to help ease this burden," said Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In cooperation with hundreds of State and Area Agencies on Aging throughout the country, the Eldercare Locator and EPA encourage older adults and their families to take action now to prepare for an economically warm and safe winter, by:

- Finding out about energy assistance programs. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 or [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) for details;
- Taking advantage of any monthly budget plans and "no cut off" eligibility programs available through local utility providers;
- Finding ways to cut down on energy with help from the EPA ENERGY STAR program - call toll free 888-782-7937 or visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov);

(more)

- Ensuring home safety, such as the proper use of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, electrical cords and space heaters, and chimneys and fireplaces; and
- Having a back-up plan in case weather conditions require emergency action, such as temporary living arrangements, daily home checks to those living alone, ample supply of medicine, etc.

These tips, along with a home energy quiz and other resource information, are detailed in the free booklet '*Winter Warmth and Safety: Home Energy Tips for Older Adults*' which is available by contacting the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 or EPA at 888-782-7937.

"We encourage family members to help their older loved ones tap into all the energy saving resources that are available to them," said Sandy Markwood, CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. "Spending just a few hours addressing these issues now will ensure that they are warm and safe this winter."

In addition to seeking financial assistance, EPA stresses the importance of energy efficiency in the home for cost savings. "EPA encourages consumers to purchase ENERGY STAR-qualified products and to make energy-efficient improvements to save 30% on home energy use. Being energy efficient keeps energy bills under control, improves the comfort of your home, and together we generate less greenhouse gas emissions and that's good for the environment," said Doug Anderson, EPA, The ENERGY STAR Program.

For more information about the campaign, visit [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) or [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

The Eldercare Locator is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). The EPA ENERGY STAR program helps businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency.

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